

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 231184

43

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ARA/AND/C:DCOX

EB:PBOEKER

E:RSORENSEN

S/S:MR. REDDY

NSC:MR. LAZAR

ARA/ECP:SROGERS

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OECD

SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN APPLICATION FOR OECD MEMBERSHIP

REF: OECD PARIS 26924

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH MISSION THAT OECD SHOULD NOT NO
ADMIT COLOMBIA TO MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER, FORMAL REJECTION O
APPLICATION BY THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE AVOIDED AND U.S.
SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS LEADING EFFORT TO BLOC COLOMBIAN
MEMBERSHIP.

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PAGE 02 STATE 231184

2. GIVEN (1) THE U.S. INTEREST (SHARED BY OTHER DEVELOPED

COUNTRIES) IN ENCOURAGING "MIDDLE INCOME" LDCS TO REGARD THEMSELVES AS FULL PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM, (2) APPARENT SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL COMMITMENT OF COLOMBIANS TO THIS MOVE, AND (3) CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS IN GENERAL, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO PERSUADE COLOMBIANS TO WITHDRAW (OR AT A MINIMUM, TO AGREE NOT TO PRESS FOR COUNCIL ACTION ON) THEIR APPLICATION. COLOMBIA COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF COOPERATION WITH OECD INCLUDING REGULAR CONTACT BETWEEN SECRETARIAT AND COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS OECD ACTIVITIES AND COLOMBIAN AND OECD THINKING ON THE ISSUES OF THE DAY.

3. IF HEADS OF DELEGATION AGREE, VAN LENNEP COULD UNDERTAKE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH BOTERO ALONG ABOVE LINES AT MANILA BANK/FUND MEETING NEXT MONTH. IN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTERO, VAN LENNEP SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE POSITIVE APPROACH, I.E. WELCOMING COLOMBIAN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN OECD AND IN THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN OECD CHARTER, WHILE REMAINING FIRM ON MEMBERSHIP QUESTION. U.S. DEL TO MANILA MEETING (TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON AND/OR UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS) WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS WITH BOTERO AS WELL, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND OECD. YOU SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO SEE THAT ANY REPORTS BACK TO COLOMBIANS OF U.S. VIEWS INCLUDE POSITIVE U.S. INTEREST IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF COLOMBIAN-OECD COOPERATION. ROBINSON

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